**William Penn’s Own Account of the Lenni Lenape Government**

*Adapted from Myers, Albert Cook, William Penn, His Own Account of the Delaware Indians, 1937*

“Their government is by kings, who they call Sachema. Those kings always come into their position through the Mother’s side. For instance, the children of him that is now king will not become king, but his Mother’s Brother, or a Son of his Sister (and after him a Child of his Sister’s Daughter will reign (rule). For no woman inherits.

“Every King has his Council, and that consists of all the Old and Wise men of his Nation, which is perhaps two hundred people. Nothing important is undertaken, be it War, Peace, Selling of Land or Trade, without advising from them…. ‘Tis admirable to consider, how Powerful the Kings are, and yet how they move by the Breath of their People.”

**William Penn’s Own Account of the Lenni Lenape Law and Order**

*Adapted from Myers, Albert Cook, William Penn, His Own Account of the Delaware Indians, 1937*

“The justice they have is pecuniary (requiring a payment of money, a fine). In the case of any Wrong or evil Face, be it murder itself, they make up by Feasts and Presents of their Wampum, which is proportioned to the quality if the Offense (Crime) or person injured, or the Sex they are of. For in case they kill a woman, they pay double, and the Reason they give is that she gives birth to Children, which men cannot do. It is rare to commit crimes, if Sober, and if Drunk, they forgive it, saying It was the Drink, and the Man, that abused them.”